

Weare Heritage Commission
MINUTES
March 25, 2009

In attendance: Chairperson Tanya Kress, Vice Chairperson/Secretary Meg Malette, and George Malette.

A motion was made by George and seconded by Tanya to approve the March minutes as written. The November 19, 2009, minutes were submitted by Tanya. George made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Meg.

Tanya said that she has been working on the PowerPoint presentation for the Weare Historical Society and selectmen. She will work toward having this presentation ready for the next meeting in April.

How many people in a prospective historic district need to be in favor of it to be established? Tanya said that historic districts are voted on by the citizens of the municipality. So the citizens make this determination.

Neighborhood Heritage Districts are for places that may not have true historical significance but the citizens of it want it. In order for Neighborhood Heritage Districts to be established, the citizens in this neighborhood need to establish this, not a vote from the municipality.

Tanya spoke about increasing the number of commission members. Meg said that she contacted John Flanders of Clinton Grove Historic District to find out if he is interested in becoming a member or if he could recommend a neighbor in his historic district. George said that a member of the select board will be joining the commission shortly. Heleen Kurk will continue as a member on the commission. Members will continue to be recruited.

Officers:

George nominated Tanya as chairperson and Meg seconded the motion.

George nominated Meg as secretary and Tanya seconded the motion.

George is open to becoming the vice chairperson. This decision will be made when Heleen returns. She will be asked if she is interested in serving as the vice chairperson.

Meg and George will be attending a Community Preservation Workshop on Friday, March 27, 2009, at the Belmont Mill. Heritage commissions will be discussed in detail.

George went to a workshop that discussed funding strategies for historic places. Small assessments can cost about \$1,000, but large assessments can go to \$10,000. Then grants will be available for buildings in the town to fix them up/reuse.

George discussed the monies voted in by the citizens last year for work to be done on the town's historic buildings. He continued to talk about the outstanding needs of these buildings that were not performed last year, even though there was money still left from the previous year's vote.

The board of selectmen will be using the balance of this unused money as they wish and not to finish the work on the historic buildings in town. Hence, the commission will be looking into federal grants for upkeep, energy conservation, and reuse.

Clinton Grove would be a good candidate for a small assessment grant. A letter is to be written to update the board of selectmen on the procurement of matching grants. George said that he will contact the Preservation Alliance to look further into the small assessment. The projects of Clinton Grove and Weare town hall will be put on hold in order to work toward getting matching grants. First these buildings need to be assessed. Then grants can be worked on.

George made a motion to allow Tanya to sign a letter, written by the WHC, to be presented to the building committee about suspending the work to be done on the Weare town hall and Clinton Grove in order to pursue grant funds. These funds can be matched with Mildred Hall's \$50,000 for each building.

George presented the commission members with the Historic & Cultural map of Weare. This map was created by Kane & Ingaham for the Conservation Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Malette

Meg Malette
Secretary